

## The Mercy of God Almighty, Part 7 - Romans 9:22-24 – August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012

- Today's teaching will be part seven of a series I've titled; "The Mercy of God Almighty."
- By way of introduction, I would like to begin by asking a question, have you ever wondered why God is very attracted to the eleventh hour?
- Perhaps a better way of asking it would be; does it seem that God is not in a hurry and really likes to take His time to answer your prayers?

- I would venture to say this is one of the biggest problems facing a believer today, namely that of God doing what He does the way He does.
- This creates the problem of not understanding why God will choose to do something in our lives, in a certain way, and or at a certain time.
- I believe this has become a cultural dynamic, in that we live in a day and age where no thought is given to the process, only the product.

- This has resulted in an epidemic of intolerant and impatient Christians who are quick to become disenchanted with a slow moving God.
- This reveals, or better said, exposes this brand of Christian for who they really are. They are their own god, and God better get with it.
- It's evidenced by the expectations they place on God to do what they want, the way they want, when they want, and how they want it to be.

- Enter verse twenty-two of Romans chapter nine. This is where Paul addresses the question of why God chooses to do what He does.

(22) What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—prepared for destruction?

- v22 He asks, what if God chose to show His wrath, make His power known by patiently preparing the objects of His wrath for destruction?
- In other words why did God choose at the Exodus, to do things so slowly? Why didn't He just skip the plagues and just go to the Passover?
- The question isn't why are some the object of His wrath rather the question is why does God choose to do what He does the way He does?

- While we know it's impossible for finite man to comprehend the infinite ways of an almighty God, sometimes God will let us in on His ways.
- Such is the case in the text before us here. By that I mean, God is about to let us know why sometimes He will do things a certain way.
- I'll take it a step further and suggest not only will God let us in on why He does what He does, here He lets us in on why He takes so long.

- Actually, Paul, by the Holy Spirit, gives us two answers, the first of which is, to reveal and show His wrath and to make His power known.
- Keep in mind that this is on the heels of Paul bringing Pharaoh into the discussion, and how that God had affirmed His already hard heart.
- God, vis-à-vis the plagues, did what He did with Pharaoh to show His almighty wrath, and simultaneously make His almighty power known.

- Again, the focus is not chiefly upon God's wrath being poured out on Pharaoh, the focus is God's mercy being poured out on the Jews.
- For those who have been with us on this amazing journey through Romans nine, you're probably beginning to notice a pattern develop.
- More specifically, that it's vital we have a right side up perspective, lest it get turned upside down, thus skewing our ability to be objective.

- Perhaps you'll indulge me for just a moment as I round a corner and provide some answers from my observations of what Paul writes here.
- The first observation comes from the next two verses, verses 22-23, where Paul will sort of fill in the blanks, and connect the dots for us.

(23) What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory— (24) even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?

- v23 He asks, what if God did this to make the riches of His glory known to the objects of His mercy whom He prepared in advance for glory?
- v24 Paul goes on to say that he's referring to us, as those whom God also called, not only from the Jews, but also from the Gentiles as well.
- In other words, the main reason God did what He did with the Exodus is because His wrath and power became the catalyst for His mercy.

- Here's how I get there, were the Egyptians not the objects of God's wrath and power neither would the Israelites be objects of God's mercy.
- Furthermore, God's riches glory would not have been made known to the objects of God's mercy were it not for the objects of God's wrath.
- Herein lies the first observation as it relates to why God will choose certain ways to reveal His riches and glory to us as objects of mercy.

- Here's what I'm thinking, sometimes God will allow us to go through unspeakably difficult experiences simply to reveal His riches and glory.
- Had we not gone through what He allows us to go through, we would never hope to come out on the other side as objects of God's mercy.
- Isaiah says that God will wait, that He might be gracious unto you. Also, he describes those waiting on the Lord as renewing their strength.

- It's been said that when we wait God is never late, however, God is never early either. God's timing is always perfect because He's perfect.
- God will always do what He chooses to do according to His will, in His time, in His way, and it's always for His glory and His mercy on us.
- This brings me to another observation from our text, and it has to do with how often times God's delays are not necessarily God's denials.

- Let me explain, God may delay the process, such that He makes the end product more valuable. If He didn't, the product is cheapened.
- I've heard it said that the bitterness of poor quality lingers on long after the sweetness of a cheap price. Sometimes we want it to be cheap.
- However, the more that goes into the process the more valuable the end product, or in this case the lesson as objects of mercy will be.

- A third and final observation is, God may choose to do what He does the way He does simply because in the end it's for our betterment.
- It may very well be that it's not that God won't do it, it's that God can't do it, at least not yet anyway. First, He has to get us right before Him.
- One quipped, if I'm wrong God says grow, request is wrong it's no, if the timing is wrong, slow, but if I, the request, and timing are right, go!